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BEDFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

FOR THE YEAR 1944

68038

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE ★ AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
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- 6 JUN 1968

BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of placing before you my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary conditions prevailing in your district for the year 1944.

This Report is drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 19/45, dated March 19th, 1945.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	112,590
Population—	
Census for 1931	22,204
Estimated for mid-year of 1944	25,560
Number of inhabited houses for 1944	7,910
Rateable value	£136,858
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£550

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are those of Agriculture and Market Gardening. A few leather dressing factories have been established for some years at Harrold and Odell.

Along the River Ouse there are some mills which are used for grinding corn and making flour.

At Wymington and Podington many of the inhabitants earn their living by working in the boot factories at Rushden.

The health of the District is good and there is no trade carried on which is prejudicial to public health.

At Stewartby, Marston, Ridgmont and at Kempston Hardwick, there are large brickmaking companies which absorb a good number of men from the southern portion of your district.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

I have come across no instance where unemployment has had any adverse influence on the health or physique of the children or adults.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Total	*M.*	*F.*	
Live Births	Legitimate	...	445	242	203	Birth Rate 19·1 per 1,000 of the resident population
	Illegitimate	...	44	22	22	
Still Births	Legitimate	...	10	3	7	Birth Rate 22·0 per 1,000 births (live and still)
	Illegitimate	...	1	1	0	
Deaths			320	151	169	

giving a Death Rate of 12·5 per 1,000 of the resident population.

Birth Rate for England and Wales is 17·6

Death Rate for England and Wales is 11·6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List.)

		Deaths	*Death Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)*
No. 29	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	0	0·0
No. 30	Other Puerperal Causes	0	0·0

Maternal Mortality for England and Wales.

Abortion with Sepsis ...	0·31	per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births.
Abortion without Sepsis ...	0·09	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Puerperal Infections ...	0·28	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Others	1·25	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Infantile Mortality.

		M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—	Legitimate ...	6	6
	Illegitimate ...	3	0
	Total ...	9	6

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	30·6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	26·9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	68·1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	50
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	1

	Causes of Death.	*M.*	*F.*
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	0	3
5	Diphtheria	0	0
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	3
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	2
8	Syphilitic Diseases	1	0
9	Influenza	2	1
10	Measles	0	0
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0
12	Acute infective encephalitis	0	0
13	Cancer of buc.: cavity and œsophagus (M.) Uterus (F.)	4	4
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	5
15	Cancer of breast	0	11
16	Cancer of all other sites	8	13
17	Diabetes	0	2
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	19	20
19	Heart disease	38	33
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	10	9
21	Bronchitis	9	9
22	Pneumonia	4	2
23	Other respiratory diseases	2	3
24	Ulceration of stomach and duodenum	3	0
25	Diarrhœa (under two years)	0	1
26	Appendicitis	1	0
27	Other digestive diseases	7	2
28	Nephritis	1	2
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	0	0
30	Other maternal causes	0	0
31	Premature birth	2	2
32	Congenital malformations, Birth injuries and infantile diseases	5	1
33	Suicide	0	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	3	1
35	Other violent causes	7	4
36	All other causes	14	35
	All Causes	151	169

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i) Public Health Officers to the Local Authority.

Dr. W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Ldn., D.P.H. Camb., D.M.R.E. Camb., Medical Officer of Health (part time to your Authority but whole time to the work of M.O.H.)

Mr. F. Lindley, M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (whole time). Cert. Meat Inspection.

Mr. D. T. Matthews, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Building Surveyor (whole time).

Mr. R. J. Minns, Water Inspector (whole time).

Mr. C. G. Carlton, General Assistant to Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

(ii) Laboratory Facilities.

(*a*) Examinations of pathological and bacteriological specimens have been made by the pathological and bacteriological department of the Bedford County Hospital.

The following were the cases examined:—

For Diphtheria	26
,, Haemolytic Streptococci	2
Blood for Widal Reaction	2

Ambulance Facilities.

(*b*) *For Infectious Diseases.* A motor Ambulance is kept at the Oakley Isolation Hospital.

For Non-Infectious Diseases. A Public Ambulance is kept at the Bedford Fire Station, and is available for your District. Telephone: 2222.

Judging from the experience of previous years, the present arrangement appears to be quite adequate for the needs of the district. In the event of an extra ambulance being required in an emergency, there is an understanding with the neighbouring authorities that their ambulances would be available.

Nursing in the Home.

(*c*) The Bedfordshire County Nursing Association supplies 14 nurses to 33 villages in your district. These nurses attend to midwifery and maternity cases principally, but also to minor medical and surgical ailments. They are not allowed to attend to any disease of an infectious nature.

The nurses are supervised by Local Associations.

The salaries for these nurses are raised by voluntary contributions, by small fees which are charged to non-members requiring their services and by a grant from the Bedford County Council.

The following are the villages supplied:—

Sharnbrook, Souldrop and Knotting ...	Nurse Lamb
Felmersham, Pavenham and Radwell ...	Nurse Bamford
Podington, Wymington and Hinwick ...	Nurse Goosey, S.R.N.
Stevington and Bromham	Nurse MacDermott
Oakley and Clapham	Nurse Wilson
Milton Ernest, Bletsoe and Thurleigh ...	Nurse Maskey
Melchbourne, Yielden, Dean, Swineshead, Shelton and Riseley	Nurse Baines

Wootton	Nurse Dix
Kempston Rural	Nurses Minards and Clark
Stagsden	Nurse Prudden, S.R.N.
Harrold, Carlton and Odell	Nurse Owen, S.R.N.
Eaton Socon	Nurse Moore, S.R.N.
Keysoe, Bolnhurst, Little Staughton and Pertenhall	Nurse Wyndham, S.R.N.

Infectious Diseases. There is no provision made for the treatment of infectious diseases in the patient's own home. An Isolation Hospital for the treatment of these diseases is provided free of charge.

Midwives.

The employment and registration of Midwives is undertaken by the County Council.

The number of Midwives practising in your area is 21, inclusive of 14 employed by the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

(*d*) These are provided by the County Council.

The Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Kempston First Aid Post on Thursday at 2.30 p.m. and Friday at 10 a.m. ; at the British Legion Hall, Clapham, every Monday at 10 a.m. ; at the Institute, Eaton Socon, every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.; at the Chapel, Harrold, every other Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.; at the Church Hall, Sharnbrook, every other Thursday at 2.30 p.m.; at the Club, Stewartby, every Monday at 2.30 p.m.

The Venereal Disease Clinic is held at the Bedford County Hospital, Ampthill Road entrance. The times which the Medical Officer attends, are Wednesday, 5—7 p.m. and Fridays, 3—5 p.m.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held every Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Dispensary, Dent Road, Ivy Road, Bedford.

(*e*) Hospitals.

Hospital.	*Situation.*	*Purpose.*	*No. of Beds.*	*Management.*
Oakley Isolation ...	Clapham ...	Infectious Diseases ...	64 ...	... Joint Hospital Board.
Tuberculosis Sanatorium	Mogerhanger	Tuberculosis ...	84 ...	... C.C.
St. Peter's	Bedford ...	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children ...	104 ...	... C.C.
Beds. County Hospital	Bedford ...	General Medical & Surgical, Maternity and Children ...	134 ...	... Voluntary
Children's Home ...	Kempston ...	Children ...	45 ...	... C.C.

Legislation in Force.

Adoptive Acts.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section I.

Bye-laws and Regulations.

New Streets and Buildings.
Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.
Slaughter Houses.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water.

Rainfall at Great Barford.

Altitude:—126 feet above sea level.

Latitude:—52° 9′ N. Longitude:—0° 20′ W.

1943 Month	Total ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours: Inches	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours: Date	No. of days with ·01″ or more	No. of days with ·04″ or more
January	1·34	·26	11th	15	13
February ...	1·23	·37	16th	17	10
March	·14	·06	29th	6	1
April	2·30	·68	2nd	11	8
May	1·01	·29	17th	6	5
June	1·44	·30	26th	16	11
July	1·36	·33	13th	10	8
August	1·95	·80	25th	9	7
September ...	2·15	·37	2nd	13	12
October	2·69	·36	16th	19	15
November ...	3·02	·45	16th	21	16
December ...	·80	·26	16th	10	6
	19·43	·80	Aug. 16th	153	112

Rainfall at Wellingborough—at Swanspool Gardens.

Altitude:—168½ feet.

Diameter of gauge, 5 ins. Height of gauge above ground, 12 ins.

Latitude:—52° 17′ 54″ N. Longitude:—0° 41′ 23″ W.

Month	Total ins.	No. of days with ·01″ or more	No. of days with ·04″ or more
January	1·57	11	9
February	1·26	16	9
March	·09	6	1
April	1·76	10	7
May	·93	6	5
June	2·73	14	12
July	1·44	9	8
August	2·52	10	7
September	2·56	15	13
October	3·00	19	16
November	3·11	20	16
December	1·27	12	6
	22·24	148	109

Rainfall at Wellingborough—at Bushfield Waterworks.
Altitude:—286 feet.
Gauge 8in. diameter. Height of gauge above ground, 11 ins.
Latitude:—52° 9′ N. Longitude 0° 43′ W.

Month	*Total ins.*	*No. of days with ·01″ or more.*	*No of days with ·04″ or more*
January ...	1·63	15	10
February	1·33	20	9
March ...	·14	9	1
April ...	1·82	10	7
May ...	·85	8	5
June ...	2·68	16	13
July ...	1·69	14	8
August	2·44	13	7
September	2·48	20	10
October	3·07	24	14
November	3·06	23	16
December	1·20	17	6
	22·39	189	106

Rainfall for previous ten years:—

Year	*Great Barford*	*Wellingborough Swanspool Gardens*	*England and Wales*
1934	18·57	18·44	33·69
1935	24·57	27·79	40·14
1936	27·08	30·68	38·5
1937	29·93	30·41	39·1
1938	19·70	23·60	35·6
1939	25·51	30·51	40·3
1940	21·35	24·32	35·6
1941	22·11	27·63	33·8
1942	18·69	22·04	35·9
1943	16·07	17·23	33·4
1944	19·43	22·24	35·3

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Arnold Whitchurch of Great Barford, and to Mr. R. Kilby of Wellingborough for supplying me with the information about the rainfalls of these districts.

The whole of the district is now supplied with good and wholesome water from public sources with the exception of some outlying farms

I append the reports of the analysis of the three main supplies to your District, namely Bedford, Biggleswade and Birchmoor.

REPORTS:

BEDFORD.—During 1944 the analyses of the finally treated water which are carried out weekly, showed that in all cases the water was up to the highest drinking water standard.

BIGGLESWADE.—Topler's Hill Town, date March 19th, 1945.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is not unduly hard in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution and is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are very satisfactory, consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

WOOTTON (water from Birchmoor).—Taken January 1st, 1945.

This sample is bright but has a few particles of suspended matter. It is of a high standard of bacterial purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
(Mr. F. Lindley.)

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water Supply Report.

PARISH	*Population 1931 Census*	*Length of Mains Miles*	*Yards*	*Premises supplied*	*No. of Services*	*No. of Standposts*
Great Barford	775	2	939	78	68	23
Little Barford	75	1	549	5	5	2
Biddenham	454	1	1634	142	139	—
Bletsoe	214	4	462	14	14	7
Bolnhurst and Keysoe...	594	8	1364	73	70	39
Bromham	442	5	984	245	189	—
Cardington	328	1	1040	96	64	—
Carlton and Chellington	418	5	351	35	35	12
Clapham	811	3	174	485	226	14
Colmworth	265	2	1500	44	38	10
Cople	405	1	1577	92	68	9
Dean and Shelton ...	378	3	1432	38	37	16
Eastcotts	1146	3	174	35	29	11
Eaton Socon	2240	14	1462	308	220	52
Elstow	415	2	1573	126	73	—
Felmersham	381	2	1663	22	22	14
Harrold	924	1	904	63	55	21
Kempston Rural ...	694	11	323	211	176	21
Knotting and Souldrop..	275	4	40	28	24	9
Melchbourne and Yielden	310	5	676	29	27	12
Milton Ernest	340	4	1338	25	25	8
Oakley	508	4	1126	101	87	20
Odell	226	3	425	22	21	9
Pavenham	344	2	1114	45	45	11
Pertenhall	183	2	295	18	18	6
Podington	425	4	82	66	60	7
Ravensden	348	5	128	63	60	14
Renhold	475	9	58	230	217	1
Riseley	528	3	1003	50	44	17
Roxton	449	5	898	65	46	20
Sharnbrook	723	6	432	110	105	21
Stagsden	455	2	1482	52	48	15
Staughton, Little ...	224	3	129	30	29	12
Stevington	479	2	286	43	42	12
Stewartby	895	1	494	20	14	—
Swineshead	124	1	728	21	20	6
Thurleigh	404	9	1035	47	45	22
Turvey	863	2	1563	31	28	18
Wilden	344	7	255	47	46	15
Willington	428	3	332	36	35	13
Wilshamstead	675	6	6	145	133	20
Wootton	692	5	1041	174	162	41
Wymington	518	1	592	89	46	2
(Sandy and Tempsford Biggleswade R.D.C.)	—	3	876	—	—	—
	22204	189	1099	3699	2955	582

1. (ii) Drainage and Sewerage Report.

In the Rural District 4,378 yards of open sewers were thoroughly cleansed and repaired in various Parishes.

2. Rivers and Streams.

During the year, complaints were notified of the pollution of streams and watercourses in three Parishes. In each case, effluents from sewage works belonging to Government Establishments were concerned and found to be discharging into practically dry water-courses with resultant pollution.

In my opinion the pollutions were due to the abnormal dry weather and overloading of the various sewage works. Representations were made to the appropriate Departments in each case.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

A water carriage system is in operation in the Parishes of Clapham, Wymington and Stewartby, and in parts of the Parishes of Eaton Socon, Eastcotts and Sharnbrook. The rest of the district has Water Closets (to cesspools) and Earth Closets.

3. (ii) Public Cleansing.

During the year the following materials have been salvaged by your Contractors and by voluntary organisations.

	Contractors		*Voluntary Organizations*		*Totals*		
	tons	*cwts.*	*tons*	*cwts.*	*tons*	*cwts.*	*qrs.*
Paper	36	7	59	0½	95	7	2
Black Scrap	5	0	1	0	6	0	0
Lead		1		¼		1	1
Textiles	2	14	7	5	9	19	0
Bones	2	4	4	19	7	3	0
Rubber	4	9½		18¼	5	7	3
Bottles and Jars ...	100 doz.		252 doz.		352 doz.		
Rabbit Skins	—		61		61		

3. (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Report of Nuisances.

1.	Defective and/or Blocked Drainage	15
2.	Defective Sinks and Wastes	37
3.	Defective Gullies and Surrounds	2
4.	Insanitary Privies	1
5.	Cesspool Nuisances	11
6.	Defective Pumps	1
7.	Defective and Insanitary E.C.'s	106
8.	Defective W.C.'s	15
9.	Defective Wells	1
10.	Lack of or Defective Refuse Accommodation	11
11.	Offensive Accumulations	3
12.	Insanitary Ditches	20
13.	Defective Water Services	19
14.	Houses to re-decorate	3
15.	Blocked and/or Defective Sewers	6
16.	Animals kept so as to be a nuisance...	1

17.	Houses not reasonably fit under Public Health and Housing Acts	395
	Defective Roofs	18
	Defective Floors (Boarded)	22
	Defective Floors (Brick)	6
	Damp and Defective Walls	18
	Defective Wall Plaster	5
	Defective Ceiling Plaster	35
	Defective Fences	4
	Defective Windows	55
	Defective Chimneys	11
	Defective Eaves Gutters	16
	Defective Paving Outside	3
	Defective Mantelpieces	2
	Defective Staircases	6
	Defective Grates	167
	Defective Outbuildings	3
	Defective Doors	29
	Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation	2
	Defective Coppers	61
	Defective Rainwater Pipes	13
	Defective Paths and Gates	10
	Defective Hot Water Systems and/or Tanks	46
	Defective Rainwater Butts or Tanks	43
18.	Houses unfit for Human Habitation	1
19.	Houses inspected and recorded	18
20.	Cases of Infectious Disease	57
21.	Rooms Disinfected	70
22.	Infested Houses	7
23.	Rooms Disinfested	17
24.	Cowshed Nuisances	2
25.	Bakehouse Nuisances	—
26.	Slaughterhouse Nuisances	—

Summary of Matters Dealt With.

	Inspections	*Defects or Nuisances found*
Houses, Inspection of, Public Health and Housing Acts	587	575
Public Health Act Inspections	472	259
Factories, etc.	6	2
Cowsheds and Dairies	23	1
Slaughterhouses and Retail Shops	27	—
Inspections in connection with Water Scheme	404	19
Inspections in connection with the Infestation Order, 1943	55	8
	1574	864

Number of Notices served, Preliminary	71
„ „ „ „ Statutory	12
Proceedings taken	0

Disinfection.

After all cases of notifiable infectious disease the rooms occupied by the patient are sealed off and disinfected with a dilute spray of formalin or by formaldehyde gas. 70 rooms were so treated in 1944. An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is made in each case and where necessary informal notices are served requiring any defects found to be remedied. The amount of bedding, clothing and other articles likely to retain infection, removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection, was:—

Camp Beds	21	Eiderdowns	1
Towels	32	Pillows	24
Mattresses	26	Pillow Cases... ...	29
Sheets	34	Blankets	204
		Miscellaneous ...	87

Petrol and Carbide Licences.

Number of Licences to store petrol and carbide granted during the year	67

3. (iv) Shops and Offices.

During the year 10 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1934, and in every case the provisions of the Act were complied with. With regard to Circular 1600, dealing with offices, no action has been found to be necessary.

3. (v) Camping Sites.

1.	Number of sites used for camping purposes	5
2.	Number of sites licensed by Local Authority	5
3.	Estimated maximum number of campers resident during the summer season	28

3. (vi) Smoke Abatement.

No action was found necessary during the year.

3. (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

(*a*) There are no public baths in the area.

(*b*) In Stewartby there is a privately owned swimming bath.

The River Ouse runs through the district and bathing takes place along the banks in many Parishes.

3. (viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1.	No. of Council Houses infested	0
	No. of other houses infested	2
	No. of houses disinfested	2

2. Methods employed:

Skirting, picture rails, etc., loosened and sprayed with Zaldecide or rooms sealed and fumigated with Thermatox Fumigators. The above operations are repeated after several days.

3. Careful inspection of belongings of prospective tenants is made prior to occupation of new house.

4. Disinfestation carried out by Local Authority free.

5. Visits are made to ensure that the premises are being kept in a clean condition.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Building and Plans Report.

Number of Plans approved during the year	52
Number of Dwellings	2
,, ,, Conversions to Dwellings	5
,, ,, Additions and Alterations	11
,, ,, Garages	7
,, ,, Re-drainage Schemes	8
,, ,, Farm Buildings	10
,, ,, Stores and Sheds	5
,, ,, School Kitchens	3
,, ,, Miscellaneous Buildings	5
Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise during the year	2
,, ,, ,, Local Authority ,, ,,	8
Number of Inspections in connection with foundations ...	6
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, D.P.C.'s	5
,, ,, Intermediate Inspections	181
,, ,, Inspections of drains and testing	17
,, ,, Final Inspections	17
,, ,, Samples taken	3

Under the various Housing Acts, 496 Houses have been erected by this Council and the late Eaton Socon Rural District Council.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	395
	(*b*)	Number of inspections for the purpose	587
(2)	(*a*)	Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing consolidated Regulations, 1925	18
	(*b*)	Number of inspections for the purpose	112
(3)		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	18

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 18

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:

(*a*) By Owners 6

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts 0

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 0

4. Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding.

Owing to war conditions and to this being a Reception Area temporary overcrowding exists in some houses.

5. General Scheme for the Repair of Houses. (Circular 2871).

Number of Certificates of Essentiality issued	28
,, ,, Houses concerned	39
,, ,, Inspections of work in progress	65
Estimated Total Cost	£6408

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk Supply.

Parishes	*Producers & Retailers*	*Producers*	*Retail Purveyors*	*Total*
Great Barford	4	2	1	7
Little Barford	1	0	0	1
Biddenham	1	3	1	5
Bletsoe	2	0	0	2
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	11	9	0	20
Bromham	3	3	1	7
Cardington	2	0	0	2
Carlton and Chellington	7	4	0	11
Clapham	1	0	0	1
Colmworth	1	1	0	2
Cople	2	1	0	3
Dean and Shelton	6	0	0	6
Eastcotts	2	2	0	4
Eaton Socon	6	2	1	9
Elstow	2	5	0	7
Felmersham	7	2	0	9
Harrold	1	2	1	4
Kempston Rural	5	9	2	16
Knotting and Souldrop	3	5	0	8
Melchbourne and Yielden	3	3	0	6
Milton Ernest	1	4	2	7
Oakley	2	2	0	4
Odell	1	5	0	6
Pavenham	4	2	0	6
Pertenhall	6	2	0	8
Podington	6	4	0	10
Ravensden	4	5	0	9
Renhold	6	7	1	14
Riseley	5	1	0	6
Roxton	3	0	0	3
Sharnbrook	3	3	0	6
Stagsden	4	3	0	7
Little Staughton	3	4	0	7
Stevington	3	3	0	6
Stewartby	2	3	0	5
Swineshead	3	2	0	5
Thurleigh	5	3	0	8
Turvey	3	5	0	8
Wilden	3	6	0	9
Willington	0	0	1	1
Wilstead	6	10	0	16
Wootton	5	3	0	8
Wymington	2	3	0	5
	150	133	11	294

Number of Persons registered since 1900	718
,, ,, ,, now carrying on the trade	294
,, ,, ,, registered during the year	12
Licence to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk	15
,, ,, ,, Accredited Milk	48
,, ,, sell Pasteurised Milk	1
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	23
Estimated number of Dairy Cows	2590

(*b*) Meat Inspection.

Conditions of Slaughter-houses	Good
Number of Slaughter-houses	18

Eighteen Slaughter-houses were licensed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and of these, 16 have retail shops attached. There is also one separate retail shop in the Parish of Wilstead.

Since the 15th January, 1940, the slaughter of animals and distribution of meat has been under the direct control of the Ministry of Food. As a result, no regular slaughtering is done in the 18 Slaughter-houses within the District.

Inspection of all meat distributed in the District is carried out at the central Slaughter-houses in the Borough of Bedford.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human food:—

25 lbs.	Meat.	5 cwts. 60 lbs.	Rolled Oats.
187 ,,	Bacon.	1 ,, 58 ,,	Rice.
52 ,,	Meat in tins.	92	Eggs.
286 ,,	Fish.	70 lbs.	Biscuits.
35 tins	Fish.	16 tins	Vegetables.
79 lbs.	Cheese.	3 ,,	Fruit.
		131 ,,	Milk.
		11 ,,	Preserves.

The above were not destroyed but used for animal feeding stuffs.

Other Foods.

Number of Bakehouses	24
Want of Limewashing	—

FACTORIES.

1. Inspection of Factories.

Premises	*Inspections*	*Number of Written Notices*	*Occupiers Prosecuted*
Factories with mechanical power ...	6	2	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	—	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers premises)	0	—	—
	6	2	—

2. Defects Found in Factories.

Particulars	*Defects found*	*Defects remedied*	*Referred to H.M. Inspector*
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) insufficient	2	2	—
Other offences	—	—	—
	2	2	—

There is no outwork in unwholesome premises.

(Signed) F. LINDLEY,
M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector,
Bedford Rural District Council.

The Sanitation and Water Supply of Elementary Schools.

School	*Church of England or Council*	*Average Number of Pupils on Roll*	*Average Attendance*	*Type of Closet*	*Accommodation* Boys	Girls	Infants	*Disposal Excreta*	*Water*
Biddenham ..	C.E.	11	9	W.C.	1	2	1	Sewer	Main supply
Bletsoe ...	C.E.	17	16	Pail	1	1	2	Removed 5 times weekly	Main supply outside
Bolnhurst ...	C.	15	13	Pail	1	1	0	Drying Sheds once weekly	Main supply
Bromham ...	C.E.	79	68	Pail	2		2	Removed once weekly	Main at Schoolhouse
Cardington ..	C.	34	30	Pail	2	2	1	Drying Sheds once weekly	Main supply
Carlton ...	C.E.	30	25	Pail	2	2	0	Removed weekly	Main supply
Clapham ...	C.E.	157	139	W.C.	3	4	0	Sewer	Main supply
Colmworth ..	C.E.	37	30	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Cople ...	C.	42	39	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly	Main supply
Dean ...	C.	40	31	Pail	2	1	1	Twice weekly	Main supply
Eastcotts ...	C.	71	65	Pail	3		3	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Eaton Socon.	C.	318	271	Pail	2	5	4	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Elstow ...	C.	211	187	W.C.	3	7	2	Sewer	Main supply
Felmersham .	C.	38	35	Pail	1	1	1	Drying Shed weekly	Main supply
Gt. Barford .	C.	90	77	Pail	2	3	1	Drying Shed twice weekly	Main supply
Harrold (Senior)	C.	102	84	W.C.	4	8	0	Sewer	Main supply
Harrold (Junior)	C.	84	71	W.C.	3	3	2	Sewer	Main supply
Kempston (Rural)	C.	76	68	Pail	2	3	0	Removed 5 times weekly	Taps from main
L. Staughton	C.	11	10	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly	Main supply
L. Barford ...	C.	13	11	Pail	1	2	0	Removed weekly	Stand pipe from main supply
Keysoe ...	C.	61	50	Pail	2	2	1	Twice weekly	Main supply
Melchbourne	C.	7	6	Pail	1	1	0	Twice weekly	Main supply
Milton Ernest	C.E.	41	35	Pail	2		3	Removed thrice weekly	Main supply
Oakley ...	C.	39	35	W.C.	1	1	1	Hand-flushed to cesspool	Main supply
Odell ...	C.E.	15	14	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly	Stand pipe from main supply

The Sanitation and Water Supply of Elementary Schools—*continued*.

School	*Church of England or Council*	*Average Number of Pupils on Roll*	*Average Attendance*	*Type of Closet*	*Accommodation* Boys	Girls	Infants	*Disposal Excreta*	*Water*
Pavenham ...	C.	36	31	Pail	1	1	1	Removed weekly	Main supply
Pertenhall ...	C.E.	13	12	Pail	2	1	1	Buried once a week	Stand pipe from main supply
Podington ...	C.E.	38	33	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Ravensden ..	C.E.	51	45	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Renhold ...	C.E.	37	32	Pail	2	2	0	Removed 2-3 times weekly	Main supply
Riseley ...	C.E.	65	58	Pail	2	2	2	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Roxton ...	C.E.	51	44	Pail	1	1	1	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Sharnbrook ..	C.	111	97	Pail	2	2	1	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Swineshead ..	C.	11	8	Pail	1	3	0	Removed twice a week	Main supply
Souldrop ...	C.	21	20	Pail	2		2	Drying Shed Removed daily	Main supply
Stagsden ...	C.E.	52	46	Pail	4	4	0	Removed once weekly	Main supply
Stevington ...	C.	38	34	W.C.	2		3	Sewer	Main supply
Stewartby (Senior)	C.	128	114	W.C.	4	10	0	Sewer	Main supply
Stewartby (Junior)	C.	156	140	W.C.	3	6	2	Sewer	Main supply
Thurleigh ...	C.	44	37	Pail	3		3	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Turvey ... (Junior)	C.E.	30	26	Pail	2	4	4	Removed weekly	Main supply
Wilden ...	C.E.	36	29	Pail	1	1	2	Removed thrice weekly	Main supply
Willington ...	C.	40	33	W.C.	1	1	2	Hand-flushed to cesspool	Main supply
Wilstead (Mixed)	C.E.	56	49	Pail	2	3	0	Removed twice weekly	Main supply
Wilstead (Infants)	C.E.	30	27	Pail	0	0	3	Removed weekly	Stand pipe from main supply
Wootton ... (Mixed)	C.	121	108	Pail	2	5	0	Drying Shed twice weekly	Main supply
Wootton (Infants)	C.	46	37	Pail	0	0	6	Drying Shed weekly	Main supply
Wymington	C.E.	47	42	W.C.	2	3	0	Sewer	Main supply
Yelden ...	C.	23	20	Pail	1	1	1	Once weekly	Stand pipe from main supply

School Closures.

It was not necessary to close any of the Schools during 1944.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases are treated at the Oakley Isolation Hospital, which is now administered by a Joint Hospital Board, comprised of members from the Bedford Borough Council, Bedford Rural District Council, and from the Kempston Urban District Council.

The accommodation is now 64 beds, allowing 2,000 square feet floor space for each bed and a cubical ward of eight beds.

Oakley Isolation Hospital.

Patients in hospital on January 1st, 1944:

Scarlet Fever	0
Diphtheria	0
Typhoid	0
Whooping Cough	1

Admissions during the year:

Scarlet Fever	45
Diphtheria	6
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2
Erysipelas	1
Paratyphoid and Typhoid	0
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	2
Jaundice	1

Discharges:

Scarlet Fever	43
Diphtheria	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Erysipelas	1
Paratyphoid and Typhoid	0
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	2

Deaths:

Whooping Cough	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1

Patients in hospital on December 31st, 1944:

Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	0
Whooping Cough	0

Small Pox.

I am glad to report that there have been no cases notified.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty-nine cases have been notified; 45 have been removed to the Isolation Hospital. These cases were distributed among 21 parishes, the largest number that occurred in any one parish was seven; these resided in Podington.

Of the age incidence, 23 occurred in the period from five to ten years and 15 from ten to fifteen years.

No deaths.

Diphtheria.

Six cases were notified and were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Two of them were aged 12 years and 3 years. Neither of them had been immunised. The other cases were over twenty years of age and there was no history of any of them being immunised.

No deaths.

Pneumonia.

Fifty cases were notified from 10 parishes.
Six deaths were registered.

Erysipelas.

Seven cases notified. All recovered.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases notified.

Paratyphoid Fever.

No case was notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Two cases notified; both were treated in Hospital.

Whooping Cough.

One hundred and thirty-two cases have been reported; they have occurred in ten parishes.

Measles.

Twenty-five cases were notified from 9 parishes.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified.

Catarrhal Jaundice.

Seventy-six cases were notified, occurring in eight parishes.

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria.

A number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year under review and during previous years.

I give details below; the children are divided into two groups:—

1. Children of school age.
2. Children under school age.

1. Children of School Age.

Number on School Rolls on January 1st, 1944 ...	3088
„ „ „ „ „ December 31st, 1944 ...	3132
Number of children immunised on January 1st, 1944...	2828
„ „ „ „ during the year ...	76
Total of immunised children	2904
Deduct approximate number of immunised children who have left school during the year	491
	2413
Add approximate number of immunised children who have reached the age of five years, i.e. 40 % of 417 children	166
The number immunised on December 31st, 1944 ...	2579
Percentage of immunised on January 1st, 1944 ...	81·8%
„ „ „ „ December 31st, 1944 ...	82·3%

I am satisfied with this result.

2. Children under School Age.

Estimated number at mid-year, 1944	2084
Number immunised January 1st, 1944	776
Deduct 40% of 417 children who have reached the age of five years	166
	610
Number immunised during the year	253
Number immunised on December 31st, 1944 ...	863
Percentage of immunised on January 1st	39·9%
„ „ „ „ December 31st ...	41·3%

There have been two cases of Diphtheria in this district among children under fifteen years of age during the year under review, neither of them had been immunised, and both recovered.

Non-Notifiable Diseases.

An outbreak of Chicken-Pox occurred in the parishes of Stewartby, Sharnbrook, Carlton, Bletsoe, Wootton, Harrold, Roxton. There were also cases of Mumps in Stewartby, Harrold, Wootton and Great Barford.

The Scabies Order, 1941.

I have arranged for evacuated children to be admitted to St. Peter's Hospital to be cleansed and treated.

I have also arranged with the Borough of Bedford Authorities to cleanse all infected persons at one of their cleansing centres at the cost of 2/- per treatment. As a rule, two treatments are necessary. With regards to the cleansing of their clothes and blankets, I instruct the infected person or parent (if a child) to boil all linen or cotton sheets and under-clothing and air and iron all blankets and woollen under garments.

During the year under review 309 treatments have been given to 160 persons at the Commercial Road Treatment Centre in Bedford.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Age period	*Scarlet Fever*	*Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis*	*Diphtheria*	*Pneumonia*	*Erysipelas*	*Puerperal Pyrexia*	*Whooping Cough*	*Measles*	*Para-Typhoid*	*Jaundice*	*Malaria*	*Opthalmia Neonatorum*
Total cases notified ...	59	2	6	50	7	0	132	25	0	76	1	0
Cases admitted to Hospital	45	2	6	0	1	—	2	3	0	1	—	—
Total Deaths ...	—	1	—	6	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Cases under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 1-2 years...	1	—	—	2	—	—	10	2	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 2-3 years...	2	—	—	2	—	—	16	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 3-4 years...	1	—	1	—	—	—	15	1	—	1	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 4-5 years...	2	—	—	2	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 5-10 years	23	—	—	8	—	—	50	7	—	14	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 10-15 years	15	—	1	1	—	—	4	8	—	19	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 15-20 years	5	2	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	16	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 20-35 years	6	—	3	3	—	—	—	2	—	19	1	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 35-45 years	3	—	1	3	1	—	2	1	—	4	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 45-65 years	1	—	—	15	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 65 and over	—	—	—	12	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths ,, ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis).

Villages	*Jaundice*	*Scarlet Fever*	*Cerebro Spinal Meningitis*	*Diphtheria*	*Pneumonia*	*Erysipelas*	*Puerperal Pyrexia*	*Whooping Cough*	*Measles*	*Typhoid*	*Opthalmia Neonatorum*	*Malaria*
Oakley	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clapham	6	4	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	—
Eaton Socon ...	12	2	—	—	—	1	—	38	1	—	—	—
Bromham	—	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elstow	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cardington	4	6	2	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	1
Colmworth	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Wilstead	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	7	1	—	—	—
Thurleigh	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Renhold	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bletsoe	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Felmersham	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrold	4	2	—	—	13	1	—	14	10	—	—	—
Little Barford ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Sharnbrook	7	1	—	—	6	1	—	1	3	—	—	—
Stagsden	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilden	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Eastcotts	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Odell	—	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Kempston	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willington	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	21	—	—	—	—
Pertenhall	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolnhurst	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Podington	2	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pavenham	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yeldon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Keysoe	14	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Turvey	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wymington	2	5	—	—	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	—
Melchbourne ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Riseley	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Gt. Barford	2	3	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Little Staughton ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milton Ernest ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carlton	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Biddenham	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ravensden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Roxton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Souldrop & Knotting	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wyboston	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—
Total ...	76	59	2	6	50	7	0	132	25	0	0	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Villages.	*New Cases.* Pulmonary. M	Pulmonary. F	Non-Pulmonary. M	Non-Pulmonary. F	*Deaths.* Pulmonary. M	Pulmonary. F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F
Hinwick	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Eaton Socon ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clapham	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromham	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
Sharnbrook	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ravensden	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Felmersham... ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilden	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Kempston	2	1*	—	—	1	1	—	1
Souldrop	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Biddenham	—	1	1*	—	—	1	—	—
Cardington	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yeldon	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wymington	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Riseley	—	1*	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wilstead	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oakley	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Stagsden	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Stewartby	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Renhold	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total ...	9	11+4*	1+1*	3	5	3	1	2

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Period.	*New Cases.* Pulmonary. M	Pulmonary. F	Non-Pulmonary. M	Non-Pulmonary. F	*Deaths.* Pulmonary. M	Pulmonary. F	Non-Pulmonary. M	Non-Pulmonary. F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 years to 10 years...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20 „ ...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
20 „ 25 „ ...	2	3+3*	—	1	1	—	—	2
25 „ 35 „ ...	3	2+1*	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 „ 45 „ ...	—	3	1*	1	—	1	—	—
45 „ 55 „ ...	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
55 „ 65 „ ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
	9	11+4*	1+1*	3	5	3	1	2

* Renotification.

Cancer.

There have been 50 deaths out of 320 from all causes, of these 17 were males and 33 females.

The various systems affected and the ages of each sex at death are as follows:—

Distribution of Males.

4	Cancer	cases	of	œsophagus and Buccal Cavity	ages 78, 76, 68, 81
5	,,	,,	,,	Stomach and Duodenum	ages 60, 63, 49, 58 74
8	,,	,,	,,	other sites ...	ages 76, 54, 63, 63, 76, 57, 74, 66

Distribution of Females.

4	Cancer	cases	of	Uterus and Buccal cavity	ages 58, 61, 79, 81
5	,,	,,	,,	Stomach and Duodenum	ages 72, 75, 65, 80, 52
11	,,	,,	,,	Breast	ages 60, 59, 78, 73, 69, 51, 79, 56, 90, 54, 79
13	,,	,,	,,	other sites	ages 65, 76, 79, 74, 55, 67, 56, 65, 79 40, 58, 70, 69

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

No necessity for any action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

In Conclusion.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking your Council for their consideration and support, also your clerk, Mr. Townsend, for his ready assistance and advice, and your Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Lindley, for his valuable help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. PARBURY,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)
D.P.H. (Camb.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.)

July, 1945.